

exercised in collecting all these facts and presenting them in such a way as to give us a complete and exhaustive work on the diseases and proper care of the hair and scalp.

The bibliography is very extensive, and there are a number of drawings and photographs gotten up in good style by the publisher.

INSANITY, ITS CLASSIFICATION, DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT; A Manual for Students and Practitioners of Medicine. By E. C. SPITZKA, M.D., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence and of the Anatomy and Physiology of the Nervous System, at the New York Post-Graduate School of Medicine, etc. Pp. 424. Illustrated.

The publisher announces that this second volume of the series has been recommended as a text-book by a number of leading medical schools in America. This alone might be considered as proof of its excellence. The author's division of delusions into "systematized" and "non-systematized" is a step in the right direction. The beginner in the diagnosis of insanity will be struck by the chaos he finds in the rules for determining whether a person is insane or not, and especially the form of the disease in a given case; every effort, therefore, to introduce order and system into the manner of observing and recording the phenomena presented by the insane deserves our praise.

It is doubtful if the average mortal could ever get a mental grasp of Dr. Spitzka's definition of *insanity*, but if, as some alienists think, the only use of a definition is to puzzle the lawyers, his is a most excellent one. The account of the morbid anatomy of the brain in insanity is fully up to our present knowledge of the subject. The author is right when he deplores the absolute banishment of all mechanical restraint from asylums for the insane. We speak advisedly when we say that, if all the facts could be obtained, it would be found that the amount of mental and physical suffering and curtailment of life, which the abuse of mechanical restraint has wrought, would not be greater than that which is caused by the indiscriminate use of the much vaunted *chemical* restraint, and that we have gained nothing by substituting the stomach pump and hypodermic syringe for the canvas jacket and Utica crib. On the whole, we can recommend this book to anyone wishing a knowledge of insanity as understood at this day.

A COMPLETE HANDBOOK OF TREATMENT, ARRANGED AS AN ALPHABETICAL INDEX OF DISEASES. By WILLIAM AITKEN, M.D., (Edin.) F.R.S., Professor of Pathology in the Army Medical School, Exam-

iner in Medicine in the Military Medical Services of the Queen, etc. Edited with notes and additions by A. D. ROCKWELL, A.M., M.D., late Electro-Therapeutist to the New York State Woman's Hospital, etc.; pp. 444. 1887.

This third volume of the series is an index of diseases, arranged in alphabetical order beginning with "Acne" and ending with "Yellow Fever." After the name of each disease follows a short definition which also includes the cause, morbid anatomy and symptoms, all expressed in the fewest possible words; then comes the *treatment* which is the feature of the book. The latest treatment recommended by the best authorities is given in a concise and comprehensive style.

Dr. A. D. Rockwell, the well-known authority on the medical uses of electricity, is the editor of the book, and we are thus assured that in following the directions here given for the employment of electricity in the treatment of disease, we get all the benefit from this source which is at present known to science. As a ready and reliable reference book for treating medical diseases it far excels any which has come under our notice.

JOHN H. GIRDNER.